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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 22, 2011

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AG Bruning: Unused Prescription Drugs to be Collected for Disposal on Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

LINCOLN - Attorney General Jon Bruning and the Nebraska State Patrol today announced seven collection sites for the second-annual Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day to be held Saturday, April 30, 2011. The agencies have partnered with the DEA to coordinate collection sites across Nebraska to offer a safe, secure way to dispose of any unused or expired prescription medication.

"Prescription drug abuse can have devastating results for families and communities," said Bruning. "Proper disposal of unused prescription drugs helps keep them off the streets and out of the hands of Nebraska's kids."

The sites will be collecting medication between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at sites in Lincoln, Fremont, South Sioux City, Columbus, York, Lexington and Grand Island.

The Nationwide Take-Back campaign serves the dual purpose of creating awareness of prescription drug misuse and abuse and providing the public an opportunity to surrender their unused, unwanted, or expired pharmaceuticals to law enforcement for proper disposal.

According to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more Americans abuse prescription drugs than those using cocaine, hallucinogens and heroin combined. The survey showed seven million Americans aged 12 years and older abused prescription drugs for non-medical purposes each month. Each day, it is estimated that every day more than 2,500 teenagers use prescription drugs to get high for the first time nearly half of which believe the drugs are safer than illegal drugs and are not addictive.

The following locations will host collection sites from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30:

Lincoln

Guardian Angels Homecare 3200 O Street, Suite 6 (North side of 32nd & O St.)

Fremont

Fremont Area Medical Center 450 East 23rd Street

South Sioux City

South Sioux Medical Clinic 501 First Avenue Columbus

Columbus Community Hospital 4600 38th Street 23rd Street Lexington

Tri County Hospital 1201 North Erie York

York General Hospital 2222 N. Lincoln Avenue

Grand Island

St. Francis Medical Center 2620 West Faidley

For more information on collection site locations, visit <u>www.nationaltakebackday.com</u>, <u>www.dea.gov</u> or <u>www.ago.ne.gov</u>.